The Evening World.

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A RUN OF THREE.

SUPERSTITION holds that calamitous events tend to run in sequences of threes. New York hopes this will prove true in the case of drunken policemen running amuck.

In as many days we have had reports of three hooch-crazed policemen making trouble for peaceably inclined and law abiding citizens. A drunken policeman is worse than the average drunk because policemen are chosen and trained for competency in combat. In addition to physical equipment they have the weapons of their trade. The ordinary citizen hasn't much chance when a cop goes wrong.

One of the policemen has a police trial record of a previous conviction for drunkenness. The records of the other two should be made public to show what kind of men Chief Enright keeps on his force. The police force is no place for a man prone to intoxication.

Three instances of public disturbances by hooch-crazed cops do not mean that the other 10,000 policemen are to be judged by these three bad examples. But unless the Commissioner imposes rigorous discipline—including dismissal—on erring members it will reflect on the leadership of the department.

The frenzy inducing qualities of Prohibition booze make it more necessary than ever that policemen and liquor should not be permitted to mix.

It is about time for the annual story of the elopement of an heiress and her swimming instructor. Safety first suggestion for parents: Keep 'em away from the life guard!

TRY THE PEPSIN CURE.

A STORY in the current issue of the Saturday Evening Post deals with a two-family quarrel in a dead-and-alive country town.

The son of the Judge claims that his father had most to do with establishing the character of the town. The son of the banker makes the same claim.

A son of the town returning after a long absence and seeing the town in a larger view can't see that either has much to boast of. So he sets up as a third candidate the over-economical village baker who saved as much gas under the ovens as was possible. The result was bread, the crust well cooked but with the heart of the loaf heavy and soggy. This caused community indigestion and this common malady in turn led to a moribund condition of growth and development. Other towns went ahead because they had better bakers.

The idea is capable of wider application. We wonder, for example, how much of Prohibitionism, Blue Law fanaticism and the censorship complex is due to improper cooking. It is significant that the typical conception of the Blue Lawyer might also be used for the "before taking" advertisement of a "stomach complaint" remedy.

How many, we wonder, are opposed to one kind of fermentation in fruit juices solely or largely because another kind of fermentation is responsible for personal bodily discomfort.

Tariff making seems to be just one scandal after another.

IN RESTRAINT OF TRADE.

ONE of the real leaders of the Republican Party is Reed Smoot. He is next in rank to the already discredited and defeated Chairman McCumber of the Senate Finance Committee. Senator Smoot is an able individual and he knows just exactly what he wants. Reed Smoot is the Sugar Senator.

It is this Smoot who calmly admits that he hopes and expects sugar will sell at a higher price in this country. To this end he is willing, even anxious, that Cuban growers restrict production to force higher prices. As an inducement he offers "support" for a lower tariff than he otherwise would favor.

In other circumstances the law prohibits such practices. A punishment is provided for "gentlemen's agreements" to restrict production and so restrain competition.

Probably the penal laws cannot be applied in this case. Nor is it to be expected that Utah voters will punish Smoot. He is representing the Utah beet sugar industry. The blame must be placed with the Republican organization that tolerates and defends such a raid on the sugar barrel.

NOT THIS TIME.

AFTER a break of more than a third of a year, the operators and the bituminous coal miners are ready to talk terms. There is a prospect of early resumption of work on practically the same terms that the miners would have been willing to accept last March.

As a practical matter, it is to be hoped that the wage agreement will be concluded speedily, that mines will be reopened, that the railroads will be able to supply cars for the movement of a record-breaking output of coal.

In connection with the peace negotiations there is some talk of the creation of an "advisory committee" to settle disputes without strikes.

And that, too, is all well enough as far as it goes. But it does not go anywhere near far enough. When an advisory committee has had its say, the old conditions are likely to persist. Too many mines, too many miners, irregular employment, wages too high for day work and too low for annual earnings will persist as sources of future trouble in the coal fields and of excessive prices to consumers.

Surely by this time the public has learned the lesson that coal supply is a public utility; that it is amenable to control and regulation as a matter of public policy; that the public pays for continued anarchy in mining and transportation; that basic reforms intelligently considered and fairly administered are essential to a condition of lasting peace and economical production.

The coal operators and the mine leaders are getting together not because of pity for the public or because they realize an obligation to serve the public. They are getting together because they see opportunity for mutual profit and because they had rather get together for a truce than to have the Government reduce their war powers by drastic and radical legislation.

The situation sizes up in this way: The coal reserves are gone. The operators have sold at advancing prices all the coal in reserve when the strike was called. With small reserves they see every prospect of continuing high prices and a good demand for all the coal that can be mined before next spring. They can now afford to pay the wages they refused to pay last spring, because the public has been scared into a properly submissive mood. The public will pay and be thankful to keep warm at any price.

A settlement is equally good policy for the union leaders. After a third of a year lay-off, there is every reason to expect regular work for most of the men belonging to the union. The check-off is preserved and the union can continue to collect dues from more men than ought to be employed in the industry.

While the men have been on strike the union leaders have not been advising the surplus membership to look for other jobs and drop the union. Not at all. That would have meant a smaller treasury balance for the union and the hierarchy of heads.

An occasional strike isn't bad for the union leaders. It may not be a losing proposition for the operators. The losers are the idle miners and the consuming public.

No patched-up truce of mutual advantage between union leaders and operators should serve this time. The game was played too far. No "advisory committee" in the industry ought to be allowed to prevent a thoroughgoing national readjustment that will get down to fundamentals and by some system of licensing, taxation, supervision or regulation get rid of the basic evils that permit the operators to fatten on the public and the union leaders on the union members.

ACHES AND PAINS

The "did Roosevelt swear?" controversy continues. Again, what of it? "How now, you swear, Friar John," said Ponocrates in a dialogue of Rabelais. "It is only," said the monk, "but to grace and adorn my speech; they are colors of a Ciceronian rhetoric."

•

See the fine lady leading a pup.
Nowhere to go and all dressed up!

•

A prominently displayed advertisement announces that there is plenty of alcohol for external use. The vacuum, we believe, is internal.

•

France's greatest care seems to be Poincare!

•

The Fascisti are the Ku Klux of Italy.

•

The purblind mole
Lives in a hole.
And when you try to capture him,
He pulls the hole in after him!

•

The platypus in the Zoo has gained ten ounces in weight since he arrived in America. He is a greedy thing and eats half his own avoirdupois every day.

JOHN KEETZ.

"You Tickle Me, I'll Tickle You."

By John Cassel

From Evening World Readers

What kind of letter do you find most readable? Isn't it the one that gives the worth of a thousand words in a couple of hundred? There is fine mental exercise and a lot of satisfaction in trying to say much in few words. Take time to be brief.

If Wishes Were Cracks—

To the Editor of The Evening World:

Some time ago the undersigned happened to see in your paper that W. H. Anderson, Superintendent of Anti-Saloon League, wanted lots of money because he said the A. S. L. was cracking. I would like to put another crack in it. WET VET.

Staten Island, Aug. 6, 1922.

The Seniority Question.

To the Editor of The Evening World:

The railroad executives at their meeting Tuesday, Aug. 1, flatly refused President Harding's plea for a settlement. They have taken their stand on seniority, but when we consider the railroads' scheming and unlawful method of farming out their work to contractors during last year, throwing thousands of their former employees out of employment, a glaring injustice and an effort to thwart and defeat the Transportation Act. Note also the arrogant and despotic action of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company in discharging men over forty-five years of age, who are far more competent and efficient to do the work than young, inexperienced men.

Is it any wonder that men who are discharged under the above conditions are dissatisfied and a reaction occurs?

Brooklyn, Aug. 4, 1922. M. B.

Regulations for Employment.

To the Editor of The Evening World:

In a recent editorial you praise Senator Charles C. Lockwood's service and conclude with: "New York can ill spare Senator Lockwood, but it would be ungrateful to grudge him time for business and family."

Here is one of the sources of our troubles—that an able and honest man can make a better living by going into business for himself or serving some corporation than by serving the public. If the public would (like the successful corporation) pay fair compensation to their able and honest servants, keep them in office and promote them, discharge and punish the neglectful and dishonest ones, we would have a better Government.

In your issue of July 12 there was a news item stating that a seventy-one-year-old man, who for the third time was led to a cell in Sing Sing, said: "I'm as well off here as I would be outside at my age." Here is another source of our troubles. As long as people are as well off in prison as they are when free they cannot be blamed for taking a chance of getting something easy by committing crimes. Prison should not be a place of horrors and tortures, but outside should be a place where those whose only offense is that they are down and out could obtain a livelihood better than that in prison.

The old saying that everybody who wants to can get work is tommyrot. After the war the industries in this country were at a standstill. Employers discharged their employees by the thousands and Uncle Sam discharged his soldiers by the millions. How could it be expected that those men who had earned only a meagre living could start in business and compete with old established firms? It was impossible. The result was that those young men we had called our heroes were called bandits, thugs, &c.

Those young men made the world safe for democracy. Now let us make it fit for democracy to live in. It surely is not fit when honest and capable men cannot afford to serve the country for pecuniary and health reasons, nor when people are just as satisfied to live in jail as to be free.

There is something wrong, and I respectfully suggest that a law be passed compelling all employers to give from a week to a month's notice to the Government, as well as to the employees, before discharging them (disobedience, gross neglect and a small percentage excepted), and time of notice according to percentage discharged; also employers should, as far in advance as possible, notify the Government of help wanted. The Government should then, when an overflow of labor is in view, encourage developments and improvements and even go so far as to employ the overflow of labor. Wages and working conditions should also be regulated. GEORGE W. MOHR.

Jersey City, Aug. 4, 1922.

Why a New Bridge?

To the Editor of The Evening World:

Why all this talk of a new bridge to relieve the Brooklyn Bridge? If this new bridge really materializes it will plunge the people of New York into taxes above their means. Brooklyn Bridge is as sound as it ever has been, except for propaganda talk spread by people, who feel it would be for their interest to have this plan put into force.

The majority of the people ridicule the idea of a new bridge to help the traffic and other crowded conditions "as reported" on the Brooklyn Bridge at the present time.

When the leaders who have started this movement see its effect on the people the talk will be immediately dropped so that they can keep along with the home rule of the people.

ONE OF THE PEOPLE.

Aug. 6, 1922.

Brooklyn Bridge.

To the Editor of The Evening World:

The report about the Brooklyn Bridge being unsafe is all a fake. I have been a bridgeman for forty-two years and I claim the old bridge is the best. The worst one is the Williamsburg Bridge. The Brooklyn Bridge will outlive all of them, as you cannot duplicate her towers. These towers are good for 500 years. Where they need a bridge is from South Brooklyn to the Battery, which would relieve the old bridge from a big load.

You can take it from me this is nothing but a money-making affair. I have helped build bridges from New York to Frisco and I know what I am talking about.

Or run a tunnel from South Brooklyn to New York. Connect it at South Brooklyn with a tunnel to Staten Island. If this Commissioner of Bridges knew his business he wouldn't say what he has. I suppose they need the dough.

JOHN O'BRIEN, Ex-Bridgeman.

New York, Aug. 6, 1922.

UNCOMMON SENSE

By John Blake

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NOTHING BUT WORK.

It was recently announced from the White House that President Harding's vacation plans included nothing but work.

This is a good thing to remember when one gets to envying the occupant of a high office.

Once in the service of the people, and in an important position, a man ceases to be master of his hours. They belong to his employers, who number in the case of the Presidency some hundred millions of people.

The concern of those people becomes his concern.

If their peace or their prosperity is threatened by a great strike, there is no rest for the man at the head of the Nation until the strike is settled.

If foreign affairs become complicated and a situation arises that may lead to misunderstandings, and possibly to war, no vacation is possible till they are straightened out.

Any man holding a very great or important job can never get very far away from it.

Questions arise that he alone can settle.

Men in lesser offices refuse to take responsibilities that belong to the man in the greater office.

Whether he is at home or seeking some sort of rest in the mountains or the seashore, every considerable happening in the country must be reported to him.

Hundreds of thousands of people are always seeking to see him for one reason or another, and wherever he is he must see some of them every day.

His mail alone is a task that would stagger an ordinary business man, and it must be attended to, wherever he happens to be.

It is a laudable ambition to aspire to be at the head of a nation, but no man who is not willing to work harder than he has ever worked in his life before should harbor any such aspiration.

Through the whole term of office there can be no real vacation—no getting away from wearying routine—such as an ordinary man can sometimes enjoy.

It often happens that men with no particular eagerness for heavy labor are elected to important office. But, once elected, they have no choice but to serve, and serving the people is the hardest work that any man can do—and usually the most unsatisfactory.

From the Wise

Most people would succeed in small things if they were not troubled with great ambitions.

—Longfellow.

There can be no rainbow without a cloud and a storm.

—J. H. Vincent.

The trouble with men of sense is that they are so dreadfully in earnest all the while. Bovee.

Display is like shallow water, where you can see the muddy bottom.—Alphonse Karr.

Unwieldy China

By Maubert St. Georges

WOMAN.

As with everything else in China, the position of women has been an incomprehensible mixture of the highest and lowest standards. This contradiction is due, as usual, to the Chinaman's inability to carry any theory into practice.

Confucius taught that from the Emperor to the lowest commoner the wife of each was his equal. In fact the relation of husband and wife is considered by him as being in the class of brothers. Another thing showing the absolute theoretical equality between man and wife is the fact that a woman is allowed to retain her own name. She is supposed to keep her individuality and not become just a dependent of her husband as is the case with us. Finally, both theoretically and practically in this case, there is the proverbial filial piety of the Chinaman. No one who has ever travelled through China can possibly doubt it. The country is crowded with monuments vaunting the extreme devotion of some son or daughter.

Were these the true facts instead of the theory, women in China would be in an ideal position. But, alas, reality is very different. Though nominally equal in the house the wife is practically always dominated by the mother-in-law, and by the grandmother if she still lives. This equality is also challenged by the open practice of concubinage. The husband, too, though he is expected to treat his wife with due respect, nevertheless holds the whip hand over her because of the ease with which he can obtain a divorce. Barrenness, lasciviousness, disrespect toward her husband's parents, talkativeness, thievishness, temper or infirmity are the seven grounds for the putting away of wives.

Finally, the total lack of education, which was purposely insisted on, the absolute segregation of sexes which forbade all social intercourse, and the binding of feet which placed women at such a physical disadvantage, brought things to a stage where the true merit of women was forgotten and where they became scarcely more than chattels. With the advent of poverty the sale of daughters into slavery became recognized as an ordinary method of raising money.

In those places where Western civilization has penetrated, some of these things have vanished. Footbinding is diminishing, segregation has ceased, and education is quickly spreading. With these changes the women are rapidly becoming impatient at the old restraint. The cry for suffrage which started with the Revolution was dropped in 1912. But their fight for education and against concubinage and slavery has been so effectively and courageously carried on that it is bound to be successful in the end.

And it is not only for themselves that these modern Chinese women are striving, but also for their country, for a strong and unified mind, independent and free from the customs and prejudices that at present are holding it back. If China finally reaches that stage it will be most of all to the efforts of her women that the achievement will be due.

When You Go to the Museum

A HORSE SHAPED LIKE A WHIPPET.

Another ancestor of the extinct American horse bequeathed his bones to science in the Bridger Badlands of Wyoming. Walter Granger of the Museum of Natural History expedition of 1906 dug the skeleton up, and contributed a distinct link to the chain of evolution that finally produced the horse as we know him between the shafts of an almost equally extinct hansom cab.

That animal was about the size of a whippet. It resembled in size and proportions some of the pygmy antelopes, called duikerboks, of South and East Africa.

But this little chap, yielding to the conditions of life, had already begun to shape his teeth to the cropping of short grass on the prairie, and his hind feet were one toe short of his four-toed fore feet.

The hoof that supports the body of the modern racehorse as he gallops over the track was in process of formation in a period before man came along.

WHOSE BIRTHDAY?

AUG. 9—FRANCIS SCOTT KEY was born in Frederick County, Maryland, Aug. 9, 1780, and died in Baltimore, Md., Jan. 11, 1843. After completing his studies in Saint John's College, Annapolis, he studied law and entered upon the practice in Frederick City, Md. His ability was soon recognized and he was appointed District Attorney at Washington, D. C. When the British invaded Maryland, in 1814, a planter by the name of William Beanes was made a prisoner. Key, upon learning of this, resolved to secure his release, but in the attempt was taken prisoner himself and detained on a British man of war. It was while he was confined there, during the bombardment of Fort McHenry, that he wrote the famous "Star-Spangled Banner," inspired by the sight of the American flag which still hung over the fort after the night's heavy bombardment. James Lick of California gave $60,000 to build a monument in memory of Key which was erected in 1887 in the Golden Gate Park, San Francisco.